



Osler Mennonite Church

*A Welcoming Community for Peace
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation*

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 4, 2022

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Second Sunday of Advent

Choir

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Hymn: VT #255 “Love Came Down at Christmas”

Call to Worship

Leader: A branch shall come forth from the stump of Jesse;
its root shall bear fruit.

People: May we be ready, O Lord, ready to be fruit bearers of your harvest, bringing forth the fruit of dwelling, longing, unity, and peace.

Leader: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

People: Renew our spirit, stand as a banner before us, bright as morning glory.

Leader: Prepare the way for new life that emerges in and through you,
life that ripples out to your people, into all nations.

All: In you there is glorious rest.

Candle-lighting liturgy

Leader: John the Baptist proclaimed,

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

People: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God’s paths straight.

Leader: As we prepare, we light this candle as a sign of peace.

People: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.

Children’s Gathering Song: #510 “Today Earth Is Singing”

Today earth is singing with stars up above,

Our arms wide in welcome for God’s gift of love;

We greet you, dear children, we’re glad you are here;

Your newness renews us and heaven comes near.

Children's Time: Luke Bushman

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

- condolence to Ruth Buhler on the death of her brother George
- prayers for Glen & Sandra Grismer with Glen's cancer diagnosis
- congratulations to Terri Lynn & Thomas Friesen at the birth of Tobin Leaf on Nov 21.

Hymn: VT #223 "Bless'd Be the God of Israel"

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom: The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you - a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH. You will delight in obeying YHWH, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay.

You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will execute evil people. Justice will be the belt around this your waist - faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.

There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.

On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor. On that Day, YHWH will once more raise a hand to recover the remnant of what is left of the people, and gather them back from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the islands of the sea.

Hymn: VT #11 "Mountain of God"

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, “Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!” It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said, “A herald’s voice cries in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God!’” John was clothed in a garment of camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them, “You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don’t pride yourselves on the claim, ‘Sarah and Abraham are our parents.’ I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! “Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I’m not fit even to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire.

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Prophets are Weird

Hymn: VT #209 “We Dream of a Turning”

Benediction: May you go out in peace, preparing the way, as people of the story of God’s restoration.

**Offerings can be done via e-transfer to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com*

TODAY'S WORSHIP **December 4** *Second Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Loretta Accompanist: Melanie

Children's Time: Luke Sound: Doug Ushers: Bill/Anne

Youth Sunday School -Matthew Braun; Children – Naomi Schellenberg;

Bible Study - Jake Buhler

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Wednesday and Friday

Patty's Week: Mon. Bethany choir; Tues. sermon, Bethany banquet;

Weds. Office; Fri. Office; Sat. Cora Nova; Sun. Shekinah

Luke's Week: Wed from home, Thurs office OMC & NPM; Fri office;

Sat Youth

Birthdays: 4 – Rachel Clark, 6 – Braden Martens-Funk

Snack/Coffee Schedule: Dec 4 – Louise Buhler

11 – Nora & Julie

Dec 4 **10:00 am Patty Friesen** *Second Sunday of Advent*

11:00 am Deacon mtg

Dec 7 1:00 pm Education mtg Zoom

Dec 11 **10:00 am Patty Friesen** *Third Sunday of Advent and*

Child Dedication

Dec 17 10:00 am Christmas Program Rehearsal

Dec 18 **10:00 am Christmas Program** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Candle Lighting Service

Dec 25 **No 10:00 am Service**

Jan 1 **No 10:00 am Service**

4:00 pm Stories, Songs & Faspa

NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP *December 11 Third Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Adeline Cox

Song Leaders: Loretta, Ben, Dayna Accompanist: Naomi & guitars

Children's Time: Marlene Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

Youth Sunday School -Stephanie Siemens; Children – Naomi Schellenberg;

Bible Study - Jake Buhler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****All who wish to sing,** please come at 9am Sunday mornings for an impromptu quick one-song rehearsal.

Hey folks,

I have definitely seen an uptick in donations but we are closing in on the final month of our fiscal year and we are still short. Please consider

giving an extra donation this month to support the good work of Osler Mennonite Church. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support in all its forms.

Jan to Nov 2022			
	Actual	Budget	difference
Revenue	\$ 151,128.45	\$ 181,137.52	-\$ 30,009.07
Expenses	\$ 166,997.96	\$ 180,436.35	-\$ 13,438.39
Difference	-\$ 15,869.51		
Jan to Nov 2021			
	Actual	Budget	difference
Revenue	\$ 156,277.97	\$ 176,381.15	-\$ 20,103.18
Expenses	\$ 152,899.26	\$ 176,925.83	-\$ 24,026.57
Difference	\$ 3,378.71		

Matthew Braun
Osler Mennonite Church Treasurer

***From Council:** In the event of extreme weather, executive together with worship chair will switch by 9 p.m. Saturday night to Zoom Worship Sunday 10:00 a.m. The link will be sent out by email and put on Facebook and others will be called with the phone number to dial in. Worship leaders, children's time, sermon and possibly music will be part of Zoom Worship.

Christmas Giving Project: Saskatoon Friendship Inn provides two nutritious meals a day, 365 days a year to vulnerable and marginalized people. The Community Connections committee invites you to assist the Inn by donating money or the following items this Advent season: *diapers sizes 4,5, pull-ups, Baby formula, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine pads, men's razors and shampoo or unisex T-shirts. Certain grocery items are needed as well, including dried or canned beans, sugar, cooking oil and salt and pepper.* For a more complete list see the bulletin board, or friendshipinn.ca. **Giving boxes** will be set up in the church for you. Thank you for your generous caring!

***Dec 8 10:00 am** – Osler School's Grade 4 and 5 Choir is excited to present a morning concert of Joyous Christmas Songs at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 8th at the Osler Mennonite Church. All are welcome to come and join us!

Notes of Thanks:

***The Town of Osler** wishes to thank the Community Connections Committee of OMC for providing and serving hot drinks for the Towns' Christmas Kick Off on November 26.

***Thanks to all the people** who contributed to the 100 Blankets that were delivered to MCC. An additional thanks goes out to Shyla Cross who donated 'tops' that her grandmother had pieced (and thanks to Diane McKinnell who made them 'fit'). Shyla sent the following note: *"Seeing the photos of my grandmother's blanket tops we donated to OMC made my heart burst. My grandmother passed this summer so I know she is smiling down on you ladies. Oh so happy to see you finishing her work. God bless you all."* Shyla Cross

Community Connections: will be gifting \$500 worth food certificates for local families for Christmas. Please consider giving to Community Aid and Local Family Fund for this and ongoing projects.

Art for Advent: Advent Art is being displayed in the Meditation Room 3 – please view prayerfully and have a blessed Advent.

Council: Committees should have your budgets in to Matthew by now and Loretta needs the reports by Jan. 8. AGM is Sat. Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts.

***RJC High School** is inviting applications for a teaching position beginning in January of 2023. Part-time or full-time work may be available depending on the needs of the successful candidate and the school. We are seeking a dynamic, student-focused teacher willing to contribute to the school community and the wellbeing of the whole child. Teachers from all disciplines are invited to apply.

For more information visit our website at rjc.sk.ca, or contact the Principal, Ryan Wood, at ryan@rjc.sk.ca. Come join our team!

MC Sask Updates:

Dec. 4: Wonderful winter worship outdoors at Shekinah. Forest church meets at 3pm with **Kirsten Hamm-Epp** taking the lead this month. Dress warm and join us; **all are welcome!**

***MC Sask Camping Ministry Study Update:** Tim Nickel, the project facilitator, has completed interviews with key stakeholders, visited all three camp sites, conducted much of the Stakeholder Analysis, and brought a mid-term report back to MC Sask Council. The study is making great

progress! In December, Tim will conduct a market analysis in comparison with similar camps and organizations. Stay tuned in January as they seek input from MC Sask congregations in this discussion about camps.

***The Youth Farm Bible Camp** is having a Christmas Supper Fundraiser in the dining hall at the camp on December 8 from 5-7pm and all are welcome to attend. Entrance is by donation and we will be enjoying smoked roast beef, turkey, stuffing and potatoes.

***Rosthern Museum and Mennonite Interpretive Centre** presents Christmas by Lamplight. Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 7 or Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7:00PM for an evening of Christmas stories and carol singing in the little church at the corner of 5th St. and 6th Ave. in Rosthern. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free but seating is limited. RSVP by email: rosthernmuseum@gmail.com or by phone/text: 306-232-7447.

Coro Nova Choir invites you to their Christmas Concert on Saturday December 10th at 7pm at First Mennonite Church in Saskatoon. Join us for an evening of music to celebrate the Christmas season with special guest, the newly formed Nutana Park Mennonite Church Kids Club Junior Choir. Directed by Lynne Driedger-Enns and Accompanied by Brenda Epp. Tickets are \$10 (children under 12 are free) at the door - rush seating only!

***Shekinah** invites you to our annual **A Very Shekinah Christmas**, December 11, 2:30pm at the Shekinah Timberlodge. Join us for an old-fashioned carol singing, a performance by local bluegrass group BJ & Friends, and - of course - some tasty goodies before your trek home. Admission is by donation, with money raised going towards our summer camp. See <https://shekinah.ca/events/2021/a-very-shekinah-christmas-2022> for more details

*Join us in celebrating the Christmas season with the **RJC Christmas Concert**. 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 20 in the RJC Auditorium. Admission by donation.

***Give the gift of fair-trade coffee and support our youth!** Level Ground coffee is available in 300g bags or 5lb boxes in either bean or ground in varieties from the favourites Colombia and Decaf to Dark Tanzania and French Roast! Go to <https://mcsask.ca/coffee> and order today!

***MCC Connect:** Consider giving the gifts of comfort and joy this Christmas season. You can help meet the basic needs of people around the world by choosing from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks, and

more. Visit MCC's Christmas Giving page to learn more: mcccanada.ca/Christmas.

From the Relief Sale Committee -The relief sale will be on June 18th at Forest Grove Community Church. We are adding to the sale this year by bringing back several parts from previous sales. This includes the bake sale table. Rosthern MC is no longer able to be in charge of the bake sale table, and we are hoping that a group from OMC would be willing to pick up the mantle. Ted & Bev Janzen are willing to share their knowledge with you! *If you are interested or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Patty or the office.*

*As a not-for-profit company with a vision to help people find financial peace, **we at Amity Trust** are looking to hire an Estate & Trust Administrator: If you have a heart to serve people, love to learn, are gifted in organization skills and would like to be part of a fabulous team, Amity Trust (Waldheim) welcomes you to submit your resumé and cover letter to jobs@amitytrust.ca. For more information, check out <https://amitytrust.ca/about-us/employment-opportunities>

***The Warman Concert Band** is presenting "Let the Bells Ring!" at the Legends Theatre in the Warman Home Centre Communiplex on Sunday, Dec. 11th @ 2:30 pm. Admission by donation.

The Shekinah Youth Retreat is coming on the weekend of Jan 27-29, and we are in need of kitchen help to make this weekend of rest and learning happen. If you'd be willing to help out in the kitchen please let Zach Dueck know at youthminister@mcsask.ca or you can call Zach at 306-880-6834

YOUTH CALENDAR

December 10th: 7pm - Mega Menno Christmas Party at Wildwood Mennonite Church

December 14th: 7pm - Christmas Party at OMC

January 4th: 7pm - Carrot Night at OMC

January 21th: 7pm - Game Night at Schellenberg Residence

****Please sign Jacob Friesen's 99th Birthday card** on lobby table. Jacob is our oldest member living in B.C. who regularly reads our newsletter and responds with appreciation.